

THE SNIPE

The Newsletter of the
Audubon Society of Central Arkansas



Charles Mills

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September – November 2017

Birders Flock to Celestial Event

Dottie Boyles

Monday, August 21, 2017, found many Arkansans looking skyward to see one of nature's most awe-inspiring sights - a total solar eclipse, a celestial event in which the moon passes between the sun and Earth blocking all or part of the sun as viewed from a given location. This eclipse was the first with a path of totality crossing from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts of the United States since June 1918. The last total eclipse visible from anywhere in the contiguous U.S. was February 1979.

With the area of totality passing through portions of 14 states, from Oregon to South Carolina, many Arkansas birders headed northward to experience the event for themselves. All stated it was well worth it.



Photo: Jacque Brown

Distracted by the awe of totality, which lasted around two and a half minutes at most locations, only a few bird observations were noted.

Located just north of Manhattan, KS, Jacque Brown

noticed a flock of European Starlings circle and land into nearby trees as sunlight dimmed. She also stated birds were forgotten during totality as she was too busy taking photos.

In St. Clair, MO, Bill Shepherd noted a single Common Nighthawk came out to hunt a few minutes before heading back to its roost when the sun returned. Carol Jackson was in Farmington, MO. A fellow eclipse observer told her the birds stopped singing during totality, but started back up as the sun emerged. Jodi Morris noticed the cicadas and crickets became loud during totality, in Hartsburg, MO.

From Oregon, Clark Reames, reported while all bird behaviors appeared normal, his son had a great time monitoring the moon's progress and a temperature drop of 11 degrees.

Shortly before totality in Kentucky, David Luneau heard a cardinal sing a few times, a Brown Thrasher call, and some crickets start to chirp. Before the eclipse started, there were a few bird calls, but nothing was singing.

Mark your calendars, the next total solar eclipse will be April 8, 2024, with Little Rock in the path of totality!

Kids and the Great Outdoors

Jim Allen

Wild Birds Unlimited

Children have a natural curiosity that compels them to discover and learn, particularly in their early stages. Bugs, slugs, birds, squirrels, flowers, water...are all fascinating to kids. But as kids get older, school, girls/boys, and social activities dominate their landscape and kids often lose interest in the world at large.

Today's youth spend less time outside than any previous generation, depriving themselves of the emotional and physical benefits that come from having a bond with the natural world. Rather than "going green," children are "going screen," spending an average of 44 hours per week interacting with electronic media.

Think about when you first got into birding. How old were you? How did you catch 'birding fever'? There are some very important things we can do to help kids become more interested in birds, and the out of doors, thus providing a firm foundation to a lifetime hobby. Let me offer a few suggestions.

Start them young. There are numerous children's books that have a bird focus, from counting, color and alphabet 'board books' for toddlers, to Dr. Seuss classics, sticker books and coloring books to get them as far as elementary school. There are a number of great memory and card games that are bird themed for kids of varying ages, and there are craft projects like birdhouse and bird feeder kits

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President's Column

It's been an unusual summer for so many reasons. From government to climate, politics to vultures, it seems like we are living inside a high speed churn. It's hard to keep up when everything is changing by the day, if not the hour and you are not sure if you are on firm footing or teetering on the edge of a sinkhole. Yeah, it's been that kind of summer.

I am reminded of another time many years ago when it seemed the world was out of control and everything was changing way too fast. A new government had come to town promising more than it could possibly deliver. We survived that change and we will survive this one as well. We may not like some of the changes in place, but I am encouraged there are millions of people we don't know whose concerns run similar to ours, who will advocate in their own way to keep their air and their rivers clean, their food supply healthy, and their favorite patch of nature intact.

Think how much faster, cheaper, and easier it is today to research an issue, find data, and prepare a message pro or con. Think how much easier it is to reach out using social media to contact and rally people we don't

know and likely will never meet. Think how much easier it is to contact our elected representatives as often as needed to express our views on issues we consider important even though we know they will not agree with us. It's a good time to be an advocate for those causes we care about. It is a good time to speak out for birds and pollinators, for amphibians and turtles, and for all the other creatures that have no voice except what we say in their behalf.

It's a good time to turn off the TV and the radio, lay down our mobile devices, and step outside to appreciate an eclipse, to enjoy puffy clouds and rain showers, cool temperatures and birds in molt. It's a good time to fill hummingbird feeders and watch these tiny birds duel over one feeder or one spot on a feeder. It is a good time to visit Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge and Frog Bayou Wildlife Management Area and witness this year's crop of birds driven by the imperative in their genes to make their ages old journeys back to their other homes in the south. It is a good time to make cause with them so they will have a home here when they return.

Cindy Franklin, ASCA President

ASCA Meetings to Return to Fletcher Library

Barry Haas wears many hats for ASCA. Besides his duties of Recording Secretary and Conservation Chair, Barry also keeps up with where ASCAs monthly meetings will be held.

Several months ago the John Gould Fletcher Library, where the group normally meets, decided to undergo some renovations. With nowhere to go, Audubon Arkansas once again graciously opened their doors and has allowed ASCA to meet for the past several months there.

Barry continued to monitor progress at the library and recently announced construction had been completed.

Beginning September 14, ASCA will once again resume its monthly meetings at the John Gould Fletcher Library, 823 Buchanan Street, Little Rock. Library policy states meeting rooms can only be reserved for six months at a time and Barry has reserved meeting space through February 8, except for December when ASCA holds its annual potluck at Audubon Arkansas.

Many thanks to Audubon Arkansas for allowing ASCA to use your facility and a big thank you to Barry Haas for keeping up with all the changes.

Welcome New Members

ASCA would like to welcome the following new members:

Cheryl Johnson, Melvin Clifford, Pat Bradley, and Fred Hendricks

Chasing Hispaniola's Endemics

Karen Holliday

The Caribbean island of Hispaniola is home to the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic (DR). In early May 2017, Shane Woolbright and I flew into Santo Domingo, the capitol of DR and the oldest European city in the New World. Our goal was to find the island's 32 endemics in one week. The Grey-crowned Palm Tanager is found only in Haiti. Since we weren't going there, that left 31 endemics to find in 4 ½ days.

We organized our trip through Kate Wallace, owner of Tody Tours. Kate began guiding in DR in 1997 and has been active in the Caribbean birding world ever since. She named her company after the two species of todies on the island, Narrow-billed and Broad-billed. Kate's camp, which we stayed in for two nights, was teeming with todies. They are sassy, fearless, noisy and flamboyant, and in constant motion. Our guide was Danilo Mejia, an important contributor to the field guide *Birds of the Dominican Republic and Haiti*. His English was somewhat limited, but he really knew his birds. One of the best things he told us was there are no poisonous snakes or chiggers on the island. Yeah!



Broad-billed Tody | Photo: Cornell University

Our first morning, we left Kate's camp at 4:00 a.m. to drive, in the dark, up the most terrifying road I have ever been on to reach the highest point of the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park. Half of the two-hour drive was spent crawling up a riverbed full of tumbled boulders and creek gravel that almost high-centered the 4-wheel drive truck several times as we sank almost up to the axles in places. The rest of the road was a very narrow path along the edge of the mountain with alarming drop-offs. Our main target was the secretive La Selle Thrush, which can only be spotted just at dawn in a specific area of the cloud forest. We found three, along with close to half the endemics we needed for the trip. Driving back down in the daylight, we saw the Haiti side was completely denuded of any trees larger than small saplings, a very sad contrast to the green forests on the Dominican side of the mountain. Back at camp that afternoon, Kate told us the road is an international highway between DR and Haiti!

On the third day of the trip, we headed to the south side of the island, stopping at Lago Enriquillo, the largest lake in the Caribbean, which is intensely saline and situated 120 feet below sea level. It is the remnant of a channel that once divided Hispaniola into two islands. It was full of egrets and herons of all kinds, Black-necked Stilts, Common

Gallinules, and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, with Hispaniolan Woodpeckers, Antillean Grackles, and White-winged Doves in the nearby trees. Our guide kept asking if I was seeing the Reddish Egret and I kept saying no. Finally, a big white bird started doing the Reddish Egret dance and I realized he was talking about a white morph Reddish Egret. Turns out DR only gets the white morph version.

We spent our next two nights at an oceanfront hotel where the Antillean Palm-Swifts constantly swooped in to skim the water in the swimming pool for a quick drink and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons stalked the edges of the pool looking for frogs. The hotel grounds netted us Black-crowned Palm-Tanagers, Hispaniolan Orioles, and Mangrove Cuckoos, plus Antillean Mangos, a large hummingbird. At Kate's place we saw Vervain Hummingbirds, the second smallest hummingbird in the world. The Cuban Bee Hummingbird is the smallest. Vervains are quite vocal and loud for such a tiny bird.

The airline notified us that our Friday flight back to the States had been pushed back to 2:00 p.m. giving us a free morning. Since we had knocked out 99% of the endemics by Thursday afternoon, we realized we could try for the critically-endangered, rare endemic Ridgway's Hawk. There are fewer than 300 individuals remaining. The hawk's wild range is confined to a small area in the mountains of the Los Haities National Park. They like to build their nests on the top of active Palmchat nests. Palmchats are gregarious and build enormous communal nests in palm trees. It is a family unto itself, the monotypic Dulidae. The Palmchat is also the national bird of DR.

Kate arranged for Danilo to drive us to the hawk's nest site. A local guide met us at a small village in the park. We pulled into the village and spotted our local guide who was waiting comfortably in the sun in a plastic lawn chair. He stood up, told us to get out of the car, then pointed to a bare tree on the hillside where a male Ridgway's Hawk sat drying himself in the morning sun. After high-fives, the guide took us a couple of streets over and pointed to a large palm tree where a male and female were perched on branches sleepily enjoying the warm sunlight. He showed us their nest and yes, it was built on top of a Palmchat nest in a palm tree. That was one of the easiest life birds I've ever gotten.

Throughout the trip, our familiar Neotropical migrants would pop up, such as my life Black-throated Blue Warbler pair, redstarts, and Pine Warblers. Our sighting of a Bay-breasted Warbler was only the 12th time the species has been reported in DR.

Of the 32 endemics, we missed the Ashy-faced Owl (a grayish version of a Barn Owl) and the Least Pauraque. Shane saw the White-fronted Quail Dove, which I missed by 30 seconds. My life bird total was 46 species. We tallied a total of 94 species for the trip, which is not bad for 4 ½ days of birding!

Birding Tidbits

The first week of May, Bob Harden, Michael Linz, and Allan and Kathleen Mueller headed for Oklahoma. They birded in Guymon, Black Mesa, Wichita Mountains and Hackberry Flat. The Black Mesa area had received 18 inches of snow a few days before their arrival, which downed power lines and closed roads in several areas. They were not sure if the snow helped or hindered their efforts, but they recorded 156 species during the one week trip. Allan heard a few others that were not seen. The primary target was the Black-capped Vireo which was a life bird for Bob and Michael. Bob picked up several other life birds including good looks at King Rail, Burrowing Owl, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.



Photo: Bob Harden

Lance Runion journeyed to the desert southwest for the Southeastern Arizona Birding Festival based out of Tucson in mid-August. Due to several previous field trips, only four lifers were seen out of 130 species, but there were lots of great looks at southwestern specialties including Arizona Woodpecker, Elegant Trogon, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, and Hepatic Tanager. Perhaps the rarest birds of the trip were the singing Five-striped Sparrows and a pair of nesting Rose-throated Becards. The oddball bird of the weekend had to have been the Brown Pelican that somehow ended up in the desert but did manage to find the local sewer pond!

In July, Dan and Samantha, Jack and Pam Stewart, and other Audubon Arkansas staff attended National Audubon's convention in Park City, UT. The Scheimans stayed with former Little Rock residents and ASCA members Craig and Dale Provost in Salt Lake City where they saw their life California Quail in the Provost's yard

The day after the convention the Provosts took the Scheimans to Antelope Island State Park on the Great Salt Lake. Many Chuckars were resting on rocks, and with some effort a Sage Thrasher was seen for the third lifer for Dan and Samantha. Also seen were a Burrowing Owl, a Long-billed Curlew, and thousands of Eared Grebes, Wilson's Phalaropes, and Red-necked Phalaropes. At Farmington Bay WMA, the Provosts picked up their own prize, a White Ibis for their state list.

After dropping Samantha off at the airport, the Provosts took Dan to both Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons in an effort to help find his life Cassin's Finch. While Dan added 11 more species to his state list, ending the trip with 110 species, the Cassin's remains a nemesis bird.

Early August found Bob Harden and David Oakley birding in New Mexico and Arizona for 11 days. Some of their time was devoted to searching for butterflies and dragonflies. They even participated in a butterfly count with local residents in Patagonia, Arizona.

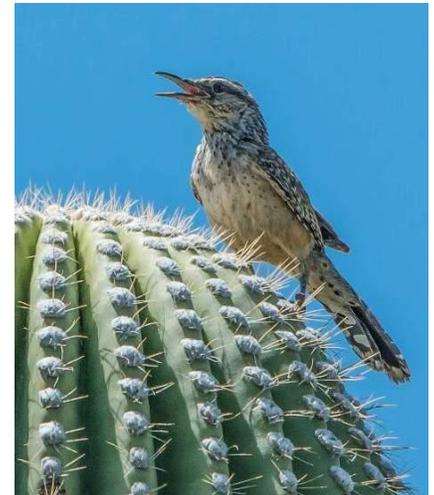
In New Mexico they spent time at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Bottomless Lakes State Park, both near Roswell. At the state park they found a population of Seaside Dragonlets. They photographed a female along the edge of one of the many sinkhole lakes ranging from 17 to 90 feet deep. The lakes are alkaline and the dragonlets breed in the salty water.

Most of their time was spent in southeast Arizona. There they encountered numerous Yellow-eyed Juncos on Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mountains, in the Coronado National Forest. David photographed a Cactus Wren, the state bird of Arizona, sitting on its namesake in Sabino Canyon.

The best birds for Arizona were the Five-striped Sparrow on the road leading into Montosa Canyon in Santa Cruz County, the Rose-throated Becard at Tumacacori, and a Tufted Flycatcher at the end of Carr Canyon Road at an elevation of 7,203 feet in Sierra Vista, Cochise County.

While searching for Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrows to photograph along the road to Madera Canyon, a Black-throated Sparrow popped up.

Both agreed it was a great trip!!



Cactus Wren | Photo: David Oakley

Joe and Amy Hall ventured to northwest Montana in late May, where they visited numerous birding hotspots in the Flathead Basin, including Glacier National Park, and various parks and wetlands in and around Kalispell.

Along their route, they enjoyed a day of birding at Benton Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Great Falls, Montana. At this beautiful refuge, they tallied several life birds including Lark Bunting, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Wilson's Phalarope, and Greater Sage-Grouse.

Life birds seen in the Flathead Basin were Barrow's Goldeneye, Willow Flycatcher, and Western Tanager.

The trip home included a stop at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center and a short drive through the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area where approximately thirty common species were observed in a short period of time.

Upcoming Programs

ASCA meets at 7:00 PM the second Thursday of each month at the John Gould Fletcher Library (except where noted), located at 823 Buchanan Street, on the corner of Buchanan and H Streets, just off North University Ave. The programs are free and open to the public.

September 14, 2017 – Far North Queensland Mel White

Mel White will show photos from his three trips to tropical Queensland, in northeastern Australia. Two trips were on assignments for National Geographic publications, while the most recent trip, in July of 2016, was a birding vacation. He has photos of species ranging from Palm Cockatoo, the world's largest cockatoo, to Magnificent Riflebird, a type of bird-of-paradise, and the iconic Laughing Kookaburra.

Conway native Mel White has spent over 25 years as a free-lance writer, working mostly for the National Geographic Society, other works include stories for Audubon, Living Bird, Wilderness, and other magazines. He has also written or contributed to more than 20 travel books and guidebooks.

October 12, 2017 – Traveling Through Historic Arkansas Dottie and Doris Boyles

On October 15, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) into law. The act created state historic preservation offices – including the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP), agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage – to coordinate preservation efforts and administer federal historic preservation programs. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the NHPA, the AHPP sponsored the Arkansas National Register Passport Program, which invites those adventurous enough to visit 26 historic stamping stations around the state. Doris and Dottie managed to visit all 26 locations in eight months.

Dottie works for the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Her hobbies over the years have included hiking, painting, collecting, and making things. While she has always been interested in birds, she didn't become a serious birder until 2000. Doris is an avid quilter, gardener, retired American Iris Society Judge, and collector of many things. She has been a serious birder since 2000.

November 9, 2017 - A Land of Damsels and Dragons Devin Moon, Interpreter, Logoly State Park

Damselflies and dragonflies have inspired humans for centuries, with their brilliant colors and graceful, yet agile, flight. Arkansas, with its variety of eco-regions, has over 140 recorded species of these fascinating insects. Come and learn about these winged works of art and explore the habitats and locales that they call home.

Devin Moon has been a park interpreter at Logoly State Park since 2015. He has a B. S. from Arkansas Tech University. Devin thoroughly enjoys seeking out birds, bugs, plants, and other forms of wildlife. At Logoly he has inherited the responsibility of a natural resource inventory, which gives him the opportunity to immerse himself in Arkansas's marvelous Gulf Coastal Plain ecosystem.

Bird-Friendly Yard Program Offered

*Dan Scheiman, Ph.D.
Audubon Arkansas*

Audubon Arkansas is holding a Bird-Friendly Yard workshop at the Little Rock Audubon Center, Saturday September 16, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Participants will learn about what features should be incorporated into a bird-friendly yard, how to use local resources, and how to gain Bird-Friendly Yard Certification through Arkansas Audubon Society.

Space is limited. Cost is \$30 per person paid the day of. Lunch and materials included. There will be a lunch presentation by Wild Birds Unlimited.

Sessions will cover:

1. Backyard hazards to birds
2. Citizen Science
3. Native plant landscaping
4. Invasive plants

For more information on the Bird-Friendly Yard Certification program visit the Arkansas Audubon Society website at arbirds.org.

Applications and yard flags will be available for an additional fee.

King Rail



While birding in Lafayette County, located in southern Arkansas, Charles Lyon of Shreveport, Louisiana spotted this King Rail foraging out in the open.

Kids and the Great Outdoors

continued from page 1

as well as plush birds with real bird sounds and other learning toys available. For older kids, those who seem permanently connected to their phone or computer, encourage them to get bird identification apps such as Cornell Lab's Merlin Bird ID app. Whatever you do, make a point to do it WITH them...be active and involved! Seek out Facebook pages like Arkansas Birders or Birdgirl and help them 'connect' with positive role models and stay excited about seeing new birds. Binoculars and cameras can be another great way to keep kids connecting with nature.

The slogan for Wild Birds Unlimited is "*we bring people and nature together,*" and we can help you start reaching the next generation of birders with many of the resources mentioned above. WBU has been providing Central Arkansas birders with the highest quality bird foods, feeding products, optics and ID resources for 24 years. We are pleased to partner with ASCA and offer every member a 10% discount on any of your purchases.

Least Bittern



A Least Bittern pauses long enough for Michael Linz of Conway to snap a quick photo of this normally elusive bird.



Field Trip Schedule

ASCA sponsors numerous field trips throughout the year. The trips are open to all and carpooling is available for trips outside of Little Rock. This is a great opportunity for novice birders to meet and learn more about birds from experienced birders, or perhaps a chance to see a life bird for those who list. For more information visit www.ascabird.org or contact Karen Holliday, ASCA Field Trip Coordinator, at ladyhawke1@att.net or 501-920-3246. Always bring plenty of water with you.

September 23, 2017

Bona Dea Trails and Sanctuary

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Mayflower commuter lot off I-40 West at Exit 135. We will arrive at the Bona Dea Trails first parking lot around 8:15 a.m. for anyone who wants to meet us there. Our target birds will be migrating fall warblers. Bona Dea Trails is 186 acres of wetlands and woodlands in the Prairie Creek floodplain. The trails are paved and level for easy walking. Lunch is on your own. There are picnic tables at Bona Dea, or several fast food restaurants are nearby.

From Little Rock, take I-40 west to Russellville. Take Exit 81. Turn left off the exit ramp, then left at the light to go south on Hwy 7. Cross over the interstate, take a right at the second stoplight (Lakefront Drive). The trail's parking area will be on your left in less than a mile.

October 7, 2017

Frog Bayou Wildlife Management Area

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Mayflower commuter lot located at Exit 135 off I-40 West.

Established in 2005 by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Frog Bayou WMA has undergone significant improvements making it more bird-friendly. This former farmland is now a wetland restoration area targeting migratory waterfowl. Secretive marsh birds like rails, Soras, and American Bittern are found here. A variety of wading birds such as herons, egrets, ibis, night-herons, and lingering shorebirds will also be present. Walking will be on unpaved, level paths. Bring boots. If time allows, we'll check the Alma Sewage Treatment ponds for Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. We'll return to Little Rock by late afternoon.

For those in western Arkansas who would like to join us, meet our group at 8:45 a.m. at the Phillips 66 Kountry Xpress Truck Stop located at Dyer, Exit 20 on the south side of I-40. The truck stop is on your right just before the Hwy. 64 intersection. Breakfast and lunch buffets are available at the truck stop.

November 18, 2017

DeGray Lake Resort State Park

The fall conference of the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) is being held at Ferncliff in West Little Rock Nov. 17-19. This trip is one of the Saturday conference field trips and will be a joint ASCA/AAS trip. We'll meet at 7:30 a.m. in the commuter lot at I-430/I-630 off Shackleford Road in Little Rock. We'll arrive around 8:45 a.m. at the park's Lodge for anyone who would like to meet us there. Our target birds will be eagles, loons, ducks, mergansers, grebes, and gulls. Dress warm, the lake can be windy and cold. Hats and gloves are recommended. Bring scope, water, and snacks. You can bring lunch or eat in the Lodge's restaurant.

Address for the park is: 2027 State Park Entrance Road - Bismarck, Arkansas 71929. GPS coordinates are 34.24562, -93.14840. Go to www.degray.com for more information about the park.



Field Trip Reports

Karen Holliday, Field Trip Coordinator

Warren Prairie Natural Area June 3, 2017

Twenty-three birders met Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission Chief of Research Bill Holimon at the Warren Prairie NA parking area at 9:00 a.m. Warren Prairie is a unique, saline barrens ecosystem of plants, soils, and fauna. Bill gave us an in-depth description of this exceptional environment and went on to describe the combined, long-term efforts by multiple organizations to establish and maintain Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) colonies. Warren Prairie NA was the first site west of the Mississippi River where RCWs were reintroduced. Bill has managed the breeding program since its inception in 2010.

The group followed Bill to a site that contained a pair of RCWs with four-day old hatchlings. Both parents spent a fair amount of time in the nest cavity so sightings were few and far between. We kept a good distance away so as not to disturb the pair. It took almost two hours for everyone to get good looks at the parent birds through scopes and binoculars. The woodpeckers were a life bird for most.

At a second colony site, Bill was able to get us close enough to the roost trees to point out the anti-predation features RCWs use to protect their nests from rat snakes. This site was occupied by a lone male. Bill said in spite of the male's commendable efforts providing an enticing breeding cavity and advertising it to passing females, he remained a bachelor. He wasn't home at the time of our visit, but we still enjoyed views of Red-headed Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, one Prairie Warbler, and studying the numerous plant species.

In spite of the 80% humidity, it was a fascinating day at Warren Prairie NA. Everyone learned so much about this diverse and special environment and the Red-cockaded Woodpecker population. Many thanks to Mr. Holimon for spending his Saturday with us. --Karen Holliday

Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois D'Arc WMA July 8, 2017

A caravan of birders left Little Rock, headed for Dr. Lester Sitzes, III Bois D'Arc WMA. A quick stop at the McDonald's in Hope netted us additional birders and a tree full of noisy Great-tailed Grackles. At the WMA, we found more birders, for a total of 22 participants. We were very excited to have Drew (a past president of ASCA) and Sherry Phillips join us.

Native Water Lotus plants thrive in Bois D'Arc Lake. Colorful Purple Gallinules and their fluffy tan-colored chicks were busily running across the large saucer-shaped leaves picking up seeds and catching bugs. Common Gallinules spent their time swimming between lotus leaves,

making them harder to spot. One family included mom, dad, and eight tiny adorable black chicks with their orange-red heads and bills. A Least Bittern was heard, but refused to show itself. The lake is a favorite for Anhingas; Great Blue, Green and Little Blue Herons; and Great and Snowy Egrets. Cattle Egret rookeries contained several hundred egrets and their young. Mixed in were a total of four Black-crowned Night-Herons, adults and juveniles.

Tree, Cliff, and Barn Swallows perched on many of the dead trees in the lake. A Least Tern flew over as it made its way around the lake. Other species included Bald Eagle; Orchard Orioles; Prothonotary, Pine and Yellow-throated Warblers; and Downy, Red-headed, Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers.

A very small alligator was the only one we spotted. An adult Purple Gallinule was very upset and ran around on the lotus leaves looking down into the water at the gator while continually screaming an alarm call at the top of its lungs. The gator finally left. Toward the end of the morning, Charles Mills found and photographed a very rare Two-striped Forceptail. It has been documented in only six Arkansas counties!

We tallied 48 species for the day. --Karen Holliday

Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge August 26, 2017

Thirty people met at Bald Knob NWR determined to find the Red Phalarope reported for the last three days. A call from an early arriving birder gave us the good news the bird was still there however, just before we arrived a Bald Eagle strafed the pond and flushed all the shorebirds, including the phalarope. We briefly relocated it which allowed a few people to see it before losing it completely. We spent the rest of the morning sorting through numerous shorebirds.

Our best birds were an American Golden-Plover, several Semipalmated Plovers, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Northern Pintail, Bank Swallow, and two singing Bell's Vireos. There were numerous Canada Geese; Mallards; Northern Shovelers; Black-necked Stilts; Cattle, Great, and Snowy Egrets; Great Blue, Little Blue Herons, and one Green Heron; Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers; Lesser Yellowlegs; and Least, Pectoral, and Semipalmated Sandpipers.

Unfortunately, there were no pelicans, Roseate Spoonbills, or Wood Storks. Around noon a rain shower moved in and most people left. A few stayed to make a last effort to relocate the Red Phalarope, which we did.

We called it quits by 1:30 p.m. with 44 species. We had to work for our good birds, but were pleased with our efforts. --Karen Holliday

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

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Photo: *Bob Harden*

Red-necked Phalarope discovered at Bald Knob NWR
on August 27, 2017.

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas

Chapter Only Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

ASCA Dues Proration for New Members

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec*
Membership Level	100%	75%	50%	100%
__Student/Senior	\$10	\$ 7.50	\$ 5.00	\$10
__Regular	\$15	\$11.25	\$ 7.50	\$15
__Family	\$25	\$18.75	\$12.50	\$25
__Supporting	\$35			
__Patron	\$50			

*New Memberships paid in the last quarter (Oct-Dec), will include full membership for the following calendar year.

All Membership renewals are due January 1 of each calendar year and can be paid online via credit card at www.asca.org or mail a check to the address below.

Make check payable to ASCA and mail to: Jim Dixon, Treasurer, 11805 Birchwood Drive, Little Rock, AR 72211. Please note that "Chapter Only Members" will not receive *Audubon* magazine. To receive *Audubon* magazine, you will need to join the National Audubon Society (NAS).

Address changes should be sent to the following: If Chapter Only Member, notify both Leon Brockinton, c/o Brockinton Company, LLC at P.O. Box 6213, Sherwood, AR 72124, and Jim Dixon, Treasurer, 11805 Birchwood Dr., Little Rock, AR 72211. If NAS member, notify both Brockinton Company and NAS at P.O. Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001.

THE SNIPE is published quarterly by the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas. Our mission is to encourage programs and activities supporting all things natural, wild, and free, especially birds, bird habitat stability and improvement, as well as to promote fellowship among members, educate and inspire the public, and champion the highest standards of ethical outdoor conduct.

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To report a bird with a Federal Band or Color Marker you can visit the U.S. Geological Survey website at: www.reportband.gov/.

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Wild Birds Unlimited, 1818 N. Taylor Street, Little Rock, AR 72207. Phone: 501-666-4210

*Mention you are an ASCA member and receive 10% off your next purchase.